

111TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. RES. 1746

Recognizing and supporting the efforts of Welcome Back Veterans to augment the services provided by the Departments of Defense and Veterans' Affairs in providing timely and world-class care for veterans and members of the Armed Forces suffering from PTSD and related psychiatric disorders.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

DECEMBER 1, 2010

Mr. ISRAEL submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs, and in addition to the Committee on Armed Services, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

RESOLUTION

Recognizing and supporting the efforts of Welcome Back Veterans to augment the services provided by the Departments of Defense and Veterans' Affairs in providing timely and world-class care for veterans and members of the Armed Forces suffering from PTSD and related psychiatric disorders.

Whereas the Boston Red Sox Foundation has been augmenting the Departments of Defense and Veterans' Affairs in providing care for veterans and members of the Armed Forces suffering from post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) and related psychiatric disorders;

Whereas members of all components of the United States Armed Forces have been serving honorably in Iraq and Afghanistan since 2001;

Whereas deployed soldiers frequently and continually engage in high-intensity combat operations, exposing them to potential triggers for PTSD or other psychiatric conditions;

Whereas a 2008 report published by the RAND Corporation estimated that one in five Iraq and Afghanistan veterans are affected by PTSD;

Whereas those with PTSD are at high risk for developing other psychological disorders, such as depression, more likely to engage in self-destructive behaviors, such as alcohol and substance abuse, and are six times more likely than persons without PTSD to commit suicide;

Whereas PTSD has been associated with unemployment and a work productivity loss;

Whereas PTSD, left untreated, exacts an enormous toll on individuals, families, and society;

Whereas veterans and active members of the United States Armed Forces are a distinguished and honored part of our society and deserve special recognition and treatment for their sacrifices on our behalf;

Whereas the Committee on Veterans' Affairs of the House of Representatives encourages and actively seeks innovative treatments for PTSD and traumatic brain injury (TBI);

Whereas Major League Baseball, in partnership with the McCormick Foundation, the Entertainment Industry Foundation, and University Hospitals at Weill Cornell, the University of Michigan and Stanford University have founded Welcome Back Veterans, a not-for-profit organization committed to creating a national network of cen-

ters to provide the best care to veterans, and funding groundbreaking research to limit the scope of PTSD;

Whereas the Boston Red Sox Foundation independently founded a program to provide PTSD treatment for veterans in conjunction with Massachusetts General Hospital;

Whereas Welcome Back Veterans through Major League Baseball Charities and the Boston Red Sox Foundation have funded efforts at four hospitals and universities—Massachusetts General in Boston, Weill Cornell in New York, the University of Michigan, and Stanford University in California;

Whereas has Major League Baseball and the Boston Red Sox Foundation have already raised \$15 million in private funding to support treatment, research, and innovation in PTSD care through grants to other service organizations;

Whereas the University of Michigan has already begun treatment of hundreds of members of the Armed Forces and veterans in a new buddy to buddy program;

Whereas Massachusetts General is providing evaluations and treatment to local veterans with PTSD and TBI, family counseling and outreach for family members of veterans affected by these two conditions;

Whereas Massachusetts General, Weill Cornell and Stanford University are doing ongoing research to improve treatments and community education of health workers, clergy, social workers, human resource providers and others;

Whereas the Department of Veterans Affairs is currently not providing treatment services for family members of those suffering from PTSD;

Whereas the University of Michigan and Massachusetts General are providing counseling and related services to family members of those suffering from PTSD;

Whereas 5,000 veterans and members of the Armed Forces are already receiving help through the Welcome Back Veterans program; and

Whereas Welcome Back Veterans is committed to a public-private partnership with appropriate government agencies to continue to expand their work and outreach: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved*, That the House of Representatives—

2 (1) recognizes and supports the efforts of Wel-
3 come Back Veterans to augment the services pro-
4 vided by the Departments of Defense and Veterans
5 Affairs in providing timely and world-class care for
6 veterans and members of the Armed Forces suf-
7 fering from post-traumatic stress disorder and re-
8 lated psychiatric disorders; and

9 (2) encourages the Secretary of Veterans Af-
10 fairs to establish innovative public-private partner-
11 ships for the treatment and research of post-trau-
12 matic stress disorder in teaching hospitals across the
13 country.

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